THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir. The research article on "Vulnerability of Indian coastal region to damage from sea level rise" by Scientists of National Institute of Oceanography, Goa published in the Journal 'Current Science' in February, 1990 has been taken note of.

(b) The research article identifies Lakshadweep archipelago as the most vulnerable region to inundation from sea level rise. It is also pointed out that there is uncertainty about the future projections and on the estimates of global sea level for the year 2050 which vary from 23 8 cm. to 106.7 cms; for the year 2100 from 56.2 cms to 345.9 cms.

(c) It should be stated that long term, stable and accurate data are lacking and suitable models for predictions are not available. The immediate response should be mainly in the form of further research to improve our understanding on the likelihood of and consequences of such a range in sea level rise in the vicinity of India; this would include modernisation of tide gauges employed to measures, sea level. In planning the development of the low lying Coastal Zone, such as Lakshadweep, it has to be ensured that no large outlays and population growth takes place or are minimized in areas likely to be affected by such sea level rise.

Promotion of Sindhi Language

122. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISER be pleased to state:

(a) whether facilities are available to students desiring to study through Sindhi medium at school stage; if so, to what extent and in which States;

(b) when was the Sindhi Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of Sate for Education, constituted; and

(c) how many times it has met and what recommendations it has made for promotion and development of Sindhi language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) As per the information available, at present facilities for students desiring to study through Sindhi medium at school stage are available in the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(b) The present Sindhi Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Education was constituted on 16 January, 1989.

(c) The Sindhi Advisory Committee referred to above has met once on 27 July, 1989. In this meeting the following important recommendations were made by the Committee:

(i) Establishment of Sindhi Vikas Board.

(ii) Conduct of Seminars and wor kshops.

(iii) Setting up of Sindhi training and research centre under Central Institute of Indan Languages, Mysore.

Institutions named after Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak

123. SHRI PROMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any institutions of national importance under the Ministry of Human Resource Development are named after Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, whether any proposal in this regard is under Government's consideration; if not, the reasons therefor?